AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS:

1-13. (Canceled).

14. (Previously Presented) A data gathering/data processing device for video/audio signals, comprising:

a plurality of signal processors; and

an evaluation device configured to analyze output of at least a subset of the signal processors, the evaluation device and the at least a subset of the signal processors each forming a direct link to one of a central hub, a switch and a port, of a network having a star-shaped topology.

15. (Previously Presented) The device according to claim 14, wherein the at least a subset of the signal processors are communicatively interlinked via the one of a central hub, a switch and a port of the network.

16. (Previously Presented) The device according to claim 14, wherein the network is integrated into the device.

17. (Previously Presented) The device according to claim 14, wherein the network forms a backbone for the device.

18. (Previously Presented) The device according to claim 14, wherein the network is designed according to the Ethernet standard.

19. (Previously Presented) The device according to claim 14, wherein data traffic on the network proceeds according to the Ethernet standard.

20. (Currently Amended) The device according to claim 14, further comprising:

a housing, the one of a hub, a switch and a port of the network being integrated into the housing which accommodates the signal processors.

21. (Currently Amended) The device according to claim 14, further comprising:

a housing, the one of a hub, a switch and a port of the network being situated externally with respect to the housing which accommodates the signal processors.

22. (Currently Amended) The device according to claim 14, further comprising:

at least one connection for inputting video/audio signals to the at least a subset of the signal processors.

23. (Currently Amended) The device according to claim 14, further comprising:

at least one connection, at least two of the signal processors being assigned to the at least one connection.

24. (Currently Amended) The device according to claim 14, further comprising:

at least one connection for a transmission of data to a digital network.

25. (Previously Presented) The device according to claim 24, wherein the connection is coupled to the network of the device.

26. (Previously Presented) The device according to claim 24, wherein the connection is coupled to at least one of a hub, a switch and a port of the network of the device.

27. (Previously Presented) The device according to claim 14, further comprising:

a housing, the one of a hub, a switch and a port of the network being integrated into the housing which accommodates the signal processors;

at least one connection for inputting video/audio signals to the at least a subset of the signal processors; and

at least one connection for a transmission of data to a digital network;

wherein:

the at least a subset of the signal processors are communicatively interlinked via the one of a central hub, a switch and a port of the network,

the network is integrated into the device,

the network forms a backbone for the device, and

the network is designed according to the Ethernet standard, and data traffic on the network proceeds according to the Ethernet standard.

28. (Previously Presented) The device according to claim 27, wherein the at least one connection for a transmission of data to a digital network is coupled to the network of the device, and coupled to the one of a hub, a switch and a port of the network of the device.

29. (New) The device according to claim 14, wherein the plurality of signal processors are configured to communicate with one another in full duplex mode.

30. (New) The device according to claim 14, wherein at least a subset of the plurality of signal processors is assigned a specific bandwidth.

31. (New) The device according to claim 14, wherein at least two of the plurality of signal processors are connected to the same signal source, and wherein the at least two of the plurality of signal processors are respectively configured to perform a different signal processing upon a signal received from the signal source.

32. (New) The device according to claim 14, wherein internal communication between the plurality of signal processors occurs over a digital network coupled to the network having a star-shaped topology.

33. (New) The device according to claim 14, wherein:

the plurality of signal processors are configured to communicate with one another in full duplex mode,

at least a subset of the plurality of signal processors is assigned a specific bandwidth,

at least two of the plurality of signal processors are connected to the same signal source,

the at least two of the plurality of signal processors are respectively configured to perform a different signal processing upon a signal received from the signal source, and

internal communication between the plurality of signal processors occurs over a digital network coupled to the network having a star-shaped topology.